

GRADUATE RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 29, 2011 ■ 4 – 6 P.M.

UC MAGNOLIA ROOM



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY



**The Graduate School at Valdosta State University
Graduate Student Research & Scholarship Symposium**

April 29, 2011

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. • UC Magnolia Room

- Welcome:** Dr. Karla Hull, Interim Assistant Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School
- Opening Remarks:** Dr. Patrick Schloss, President
and Dr. Phil Gunter, Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Introduction of Faculty Mentors:** Dr. John Gaston, Dean College of the Arts
Dr. Connie Richards, Dean College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Julie Lee, Interim Dean Dewar College of Education
Dr. Anita Hufft, Dean College of Nursing
Dr. Alan Bernstein, Interim Director, Odum Library
Dr. Martha Giddings, Director, Division of Social Work
- Special Recognitions & Poster Viewing:** Dr. Karla Hull
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College of the Arts

THE MUSICAL GENIUS OF PERCY GRAINGER Joel Collins

Joe Brashier, Ph.D. Faculty Mentor
Department of Music

This study included a thorough investigation into the music of Australian-born composer, Percy Aldridge Grainger. Grainger can be described as one of the most eccentric characters in the musical world. His techniques for composition were ahead of his time and still regarded as highly innovative. One of Grainger's greatest accomplishments was the creation of "elastic scoring", a compositional device that allows any combination of instruments or voices to perform his works. In addition, his adoration and treatment of the saxophone is of great importance to his catalogue of works.

DON PENNY: FROM NATURE TO ART SOUTH GEORGIA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT Alisha Montgomery

Paula McNeill, Ph.D. Faculty Mentor
Department of Art

This project interviewed Don Penny, a local ceramic artist, as part of the South Georgia Oral History Project. The South Georgia Oral History Project serves to preserve information about artists that live and/or work in South Georgia. Through this project, I worked with Don Penny to learn about his life and his work. We discussed his family, his education, and the techniques he uses in his ceramics work. These discussions were videotaped and some of his work photographed and are archived at Valdosta State University.

College of Arts & Sciences

IMPACT OF COLOE ON EGG LAYING AND OUTCROSSING IN KRYPTOLEBIAS MARMORATUS Lynda Bernhardt

David Bechler, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Biology

Kryptolebias marmoratus employs androdioecy, reproductive system involving self-fertilizing hermaphrodites and males. This system can result in relatively uniform genetic strains of *K. marmoratus* or outcrossing with a male increasing heterozygosity. My research examines color structure and its relationship to movement patterns and egg production. Initially, I assessed various strains to determine shyness and boldness. Then five strains were selected and tested for activity and movement patterns based on color preference. Movement patterns correlated with levels of shyness and boldness. Most preferred color was black and white least preferred. Fecundity levels and outcrossing rates, using black and white backgrounds, is being assessed for all strains to determine if color influences egg production and outcrossing success. This work is important because it increases our knowledge of how to better control egg production and outcrossing rates in the model species, *K. marmoratus*.

CHARACTERIZATION OF MACROPHAGE DEATH AND DETERMINATION OF RICKETTSIAL VIABILITY IN CULTURES OF GAMMA INTERFERON-TREATED MACROPHAGES INFECTED WITH RICKETTSIA PROWAZEKII

Kathryn Huitt

Jenifer Turco, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Biology

Rickettsia prowazekii, which causes epidemic typhus in humans, infects vascular endothelial cells as well as macrophages. Previous studies demonstrated that *R. prowazekii* infection of gamma interferon -pretreated, cultured macrophage-like RAW264.7 cells is followed by death of many of the macrophages within a few hours. The purposes of this research were to determine if osmotic lysis contributes to macrophage destruction and if the rickettsiae are killed during this process. Polyethylene glycol 4000, an osmotic lysis inhibitor, protected the macrophages without damaging the rickettsiae. Rickettsiae from the killed macrophages were allowed to infect Vero cells, where they grew well. These results suggest that osmotic lysis contributes to macrophage death, and that the rickettsiae are not killed when the macrophages die. In addition to providing information about the mechanism of macrophage death, these findings raise the possibility that rickettsia-mediated destruction of macrophages may contribute to spread of the rickettsial infection in the host.

ZYGOTIC MUTANTS OF THE MANGROVE KILLIFISH (KRYPTOLEBIAS MARMORATUS)

Jennifer Newsome, Ginger Moore, Melissa Ard, and Sofia Sucar

Brian C. Ring, Ph.D., Faculty Advisor
Department of Biology

The mangrove killifish is unique among vertebrates due to its self-fertilizing mode of reproduction. Here, we describe a three generation forward genetic screen to identify zygotic mutants which show phenotypes that disrupt early embryonic development. We treated parental fish (P; N = 34) with increasing doses of N-Ethyl-N-Nitrosurea which induces point mutations in the germ-line in other model organisms. These P fish were self-crossed, producing 7,350 F1 progeny. 1,334 F1 fish were hatched and raised to maturity (18%). From these F1 fish, 284 were allowed to self-cross (284 genomes) and their F2 offspring were observed during embryogenesis for mutant phenotypes disrupting early development (zygotic mutants). We are currently observing these zygotic mutants into the F3 generation. Documented here are the types and frequencies of these zygotic mutants in our ongoing screen.

STATISTICS SPEAKS OF FUNCTION OF TYPE II CLUSTER OF DIFFERENTIATION PROTEINS

Ashlie Patterson

Jonghoon Kang, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Biology

The application of statistics is becoming more routine practice in life sciences. Principal component analysis (PCA) is a multivariate statistical technique that can reduce dimensionality of large data sets. In this research we examine human Cluster of Differentiation (CD) proteins. CD proteins are human leukocyte cell markers involved in immune reactions. Our study focuses specifically on 36 type II single-transmembrane CD proteins. These 36 proteins were examined for 124 biochemical and biophysical properties derived from primary amino acid sequences and analyzed using PCA and unsupervised K-means clustering. We found the 36 CD proteins can be clustered into 2 consistent subgroups of either enzymatic or ligand/receptor function. The inclusion of CD71 within the group exhibiting enzymatic function is curious. CD71 is known to be a transferrin receptor responsible for the cellular uptake of iron. We hypothesize that CD71 may have an enzymatic function not previously discovered.

**MYOGLOBIN CONTENT IN THE HEARTS OF MANGROVE KILLIFISH
(KRYPTOLEBIAS MARMORATUS) DURING EMERSION**

Nathan Shiver

**Theresa J. Grove, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Biology**

The mangrove killifish, *Kryptolebias marmoratus*, can leave its aquatic habitat and survive up to one month in moist terrestrial environments out of water. During these periods of emersion oxygen supply to aerobic tissues may change as the fish switches from relying on gills to obtain oxygen from water to relying on vascularization beneath the skin to obtain oxygen from air. Cardiac muscle is a highly aerobic muscle, and unlike other striated muscle, it has low anaerobic capacity. The oxygen binding protein myoglobin is found in aerobic muscle where one of its functions is to act as an oxygen regulator. In cardiac muscle myoglobin may play an important role in regulating oxygen supply during emersion. My research will examine the effects of emersion on myoglobin expression levels in the heart ventricles from *K. marmoratus*.

**“ALMOST TOO TERRIBLE TO BELIEVE”: THE CAMILLA, GEORGIA RACE RIOT
AND MASSACRE, SEPTEMBER 1868**

Joshua Butler

**Thomas Aiello, Ph.D. Faculty Mentor
Department of History**

On September 19, 1868, Camilla, Georgia, became the site of a deadly race massacre. Camilla's violent suppression of blacks' voting rights contributed to redemption in Georgia and the demise of the Republican Party in the state. However, Camilla did not exist in a vacuum; it was both a consequence and representation of broken racial relations in the postwar state and nation. While the people and situations were unique, the incident bore a striking resemblance to similar events throughout the Reconstruction South. Local officers failed to take action in a majority of these cases, adding precedent that no white would be punished for a crime against a black person. The stigma created a complete lack of respect for blacks in their own communities. Despite the fact that events such as the Camilla Massacre were not everyday occurrences, they were demonstrations of contention brought on by a failed system of Reconstruction.

**“WE DEMAND...THE INTEGRATION OF THE COLQUITT SCHOOLS”: THE DESEGREGATION OF
SCHOOLS IN COLQUITT COUNTY, 1954-1972**

Meghan McBride

**Christopher Meyers, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of History**

This study focuses on the school history of Colquitt County, Georgia, over an 18 year period. Beginning with the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) and continuing through to the final stage of mass integration in 1972, this work traces the process of desegregating public schools in Colquitt County. Few histories exist that examine school desegregation in Georgia at the local level but a comparison shows that while the movement exhibits some general trends, there is no true pattern and each school district has a unique story. In Colquitt County, the process of desegregation began in earnest in 1965 when black students demanded the integration of the Colquitt schools. For the next seven years, they persisted in their efforts to desegregate schools in Moultrie until finally, in 1972; there no longer existed an all-black or an all-white school in the system.

WHO'S LOOKING?: TWO PERSPECTIVES OF SEXUALITY IN ADULT WOMEN WITH HISTORIES OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

LaTonya N. Dunn

Martha Laughlin, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Marriage and Family Therapy Program

Working from the assumption that how one knows is determined by how one sees, an idea based on Dr. Bradford P. Keeney's theory of drawing distinctions, this paper explores two epistemological perspectives on sexuality in adult women with histories of childhood sexual abuse. The first perspective or way of knowing is described as looking through a linear lens through which sexuality is viewed as an object or material thing that can be measured for normalcy. Through this lens, descriptions of behaviors, as in either too much or not enough sex, are seen as pathological symptoms. The second perspective is described as looking through a systemic lens through which symptoms seen in adult women with histories of childhood sexual abuse are understood in terms of patterns, rather than the basis for measuring or determining a "Truth" about their sexuality. It is suggested that what one sees ultimately depends on who's looking.

PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE VICE-ROYALTY OF PERU, 1691: A TRANSLATION AND INVESTIGATION OF INTENT

Edris L. Brannen

Ransom Gladwin, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Using primary sources, this study translated into Modern Spanish and English a pronouncement of the Vice-royalty written in the years 1690-1691. Based on the new translation and interviews with experts, this study forwards the theory that the manuscript is a legal petition requesting forgiveness of familial debt.

A CENTURY OF LANGUAGE AMONG THE PINES (WORLD LANGUAGE STUDY AT VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY 1913-2011)

Lacy Cabrera

Ransom Gladwin, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Using primary sources, this study examined the foreign/world language requirement at Valdosta State University. Using archived Academic Catalogs and Bulletins from South Georgia State Normal College, Georgia State Woman's College, Valdosta State College, and Valdosta State University, this research documents the study of world languages by showcasing the percentages of courses taught in specific languages throughout a century of data. The findings follow broadly similar patterns of language offerings over time at other U.S. schools of higher-education (Profession, MLA, 2009).

PARENTS' ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES IN COOK COUNTY, GEORGIA **R. Garrett White**

Chet Ballard, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Cook County, Georgia, is defined by its fertile soil, warm climate and rich agricultural heritage. However the county is one of the ten poorest in Georgia with a per capita income under \$20,000 and two-thirds of all students qualifying for free or reduced-price school lunches. The obesity rate tops 29 percent and the diabetes rate exceeds 9 percent, both of which are higher than the state average. The purpose of this study was to understand whether parents in Cook County were making nutritious food choices and whether they had access to healthy, affordable, fresh food in their community. Parents of children in Cook County Schools were surveyed in May 2010 and again in December 2010 regarding the food choices they make for themselves and their families. In Cook County there are two small chain supermarkets and several convenience stores, limiting the access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Our findings indicate that such variables as the pricing of foods, availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, and overall quality of food were of great importance to parents. However, only a small number of parents drove out of town to get groceries for their families.

Dewar College of Education

VIDEO MODELING TO INCREASE PRAGMATICS IN ASPERGER'S SYNDROME **Gretta M. Farley**

Susan Miller, M.Ed., Faculty Mentor
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Pragmatic skills prove difficult for children with Asperger's syndrome. The purpose of this study was to determine if video modeling positively impacted pragmatic skills. The subject was a 9 year old with Asperger's Syndrome. A spontaneous speech-language sample was conducted to gather data. The researcher and subject discussed the components of a conversation. A live TV interview of an author the subject was already interested in was viewed. The subject practiced and conducted his own interview with a partner who also had Asperger's Syndrome. The partner had previously participated in a similar study. Four behaviors were targeted for increase or decrease. The intervention was successful in three of four behaviors resulting in an increase of pragmatic appropriateness overall.

USE OF UNEXPECTED VISUAL STIMULI TO INITIATE AND MAINTAIN EYE CONTACT **Jamie Linder**

Susan Miller, M.Ed., Faculty Mentor
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

This research project investigated the use of unexpected visual stimuli to initiate and maintain eye contact in a school aged male with a diagnosis of Autism. The purpose of this research was to test the relationship between the presence of an unexpected visual stimuli and its ability to improve eye contact initiation and maintenance. These purposes were explored by introducing an unexpected visual stimulus in the form of unique eye glasses into a routine greeting. Results showed that by introducing an unexpected visual stimulus the subject's eye contact initiation improved as well as the subject's ability to maintain eye contact. After the unexpected visual stimulus was removed from this routine setting improvement was still noted. Further implications and research are discussed.

GENERALIZATION OF EVENT STRUCTURED SCRIPTS **Megan Marchant**

Diane Andrew, M.S., Faculty Mentor
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

This research investigated the use of single stimulus items to trigger an event-structured script, consisting of no more than five sentences, in various settings outside of the therapy environment. The purpose of this research was to test the carryover of scripts taught to an individual as a part of a language therapy approach in environments other than the therapy room. Another purpose of this research was to qualitatively assess the carryover of complete sentence forms from the scripts into the subject's spontaneous speech. The subject was a five year old male with expressive language delays. Results demonstrated that the subject was able to correctly produce scripts outside of the therapy room environment when prompted with stimulus items. These results also indicate that script therapy is a successful therapy approach for increasing syntax and expressive language skills. Future implications and research are discussed.

USE OF JUST LOUD ENOUGH THERAPY WHEN TEACHING LOUDNESS LEVELS **Melanie Yeomans**

Susan Miller, M.Ed., Faculty Mentor
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

This research investigated the use of Just Loud Enough Therapy when teaching levels of loudness. The subject was a 5-year-old boy who was diagnosed as having vocal fold nodules; the subject was receiving medical intervention and adhering to a vocal hygiene protocol. The researcher, in collaboration with the senior clinician, collected data by having the subject recite words from picture cards. The senior clinician would hold up a card that represented the subject's level of loudness. The subject improved his ability to produce the just loud enough loudness level and the subject's mother reported carryover at home. The results from this investigation demonstrated that Just Loud Enough Therapy was effective when teaching the levels of loudness to the subject. Further implications and research are discussed.

THE USE OF YOUTUBE BY PERSONS WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME FOR ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING **Mary Ann Costello Hand**

Ellen W. Wiley, Ed.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology

Because the most pervasive characteristic of Asperger's Syndrome is the inability to initiate and sustain social relationships, it may appear a paradox that YouTube posters with Asperger's have uploaded more than 5,000 online narrative self-disclosures in video form and are willing to connect in very personal ways with strangers through this very public medium. Yet, research substantiates that online venues are virtual spaces wherein persons with AS are able to form social connections and community in an unthreatening, more comfortable way. The purpose of this study was to investigate the content of YouTube video self-presentations by persons with Asperger's to discern how they made use of the disclosive narrative videos as a means of establishing and maintaining social interactions with viewers. The data suggested that specific features appeared to be predictive of the total number of viewer responses but not of a sustained dialogue between the poster and the viewer.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESOURCE ALLOCATION PATTERNS AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN GEORGIA SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Lori James, Ed.D.

James L. Pate, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology

This study examined the relationship between system resource allocation patterns and student achievement, as measured by eighth grade Criterion-Referenced Competency Test mathematics and reading, eleventh grade Georgia High School Graduation Test mathematics and English/language arts, and system graduation rates. Financial expenditure predictor variables considered were teacher salaries and benefits, instruction, pupil services, improvement of instructional services, media services, technology, and other. Data from all Georgia school systems were included in this study for two fiscal years. Forward multiple regression was utilized as the method of analysis for each dependent variable to determine if student achievement could be predicted based on system level expenditures. While one independent variable had a significant negative effect on every student achievement variable, another independent variable had a significant positive effect on three student achievement variables. Other independent variables negatively influenced one or two student achievement variables or did not have a significant effect on any of the student achievement variables.

THE EFFECT OF MUSIC ON SOCIAL ACTIVISM AND ENGAGEMENT

Rachel Underwood

J. Patrick Biddix, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology

Music is a prevalent cultural artifact, serving in a variety of functions, especially for young people. Researchers examined the relationship between music preferences and civic activism among undergraduate students at a single institution of higher education. This study used a correlational design and survey data from 282 cases, gathered from students through courses taught at the university. The music genres were grouped into factors according to musical similarity and compared to 14 activism related activities. The results show the most significant relationship between civic activism and listening to electronic music genres, such as techno, trance, house, and dance. Other relationships found and implications for future research are discussed.

INVESTIGATING MENTORING OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

Linda D. Wood, Ed.D.

Donald W. Leech, Ed.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology

While school systems across the nation are faced with increased accountability, the identification and development of educational leaders has increased in importance. A review of literature showed moderate principal shortages across the nation, particularly as related to identifying qualified candidates; additionally, literature also illustrated the need for support for new educators. Mentoring is one way of providing job-related as well as emotional support for new educators. Thus, the purpose of this study was to examine the perceptions and attitudes of educational leaders toward administrative mentoring. A sequential mixed method study was used with the qualitative portion of the study informing the development of the quantitative instrument. This study found educational leaders were receptive to being mentored as well as identified advantages and disadvantages of mentoring educational leaders, elements needed for a successful mentoring program, and examined support provided to new educational leaders through mentoring programs.

**THE EFFECTS OF CONSTANT TIME DELAY TO IMPROVE DOLCH SIGHT WORD RECOGNITION
FOR TWO STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**
Amber Williams

Patti Campbell, Ed.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Early Childhood and Special Education

A multiple-baseline design across subjects study was used to examine the effects of constant time delay procedures to increase the recognition of Dolch sight words of two third grade students identified as having a specific learning disability in reading. Using words that the participants missed during a screening session, the researcher created word flashcards sets, three sets of four words for each student. A three seconds time delay was used throughout the intervention, except for when a zero second delay was used on the first trial and first session of a word set as way of introducing the participants to the words. The results of the study demonstrated that constant time delay was an effective intervention for these two students. Both participants increased Dolch word recognition by the end of the study. Additional data collected showed 100-90% maintenance of taught words during maintenance sessions. Implications and research for teachers were discussed.

**EFFICACY OF COMPRESSION SOCKS TO ENHANCE PERFORMANCE AND
RECOVERY IN DISTANCE ATHLETES**
Lauran Bihl

Scot Raab, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education

This study examined the effects of compression socks on lower extremity discomfort measures immediately and 24-hours post a 2-hour run. Sixteen runners completed a VO₂ max test to establish ventilatory threshold and subsequent 2-hour run pace. Participants received 2-3 days recovery between the VO₂ assessment and the subsequent 2-hour run. Randomized participants donned 20-40 mg compression socks or 0-5 mg compression socks. Volumetric measurements were taken pre and post the 2-hour run to assess volume changes in lower extremity (LE) blood flow and plasma accumulation. The LE was submerged to the most prominent point of the tibial tuberosity. Algometric measurements using a dynamometer assessed changes in muscle soreness pre and post the 2-hour run and taken at 14 reproducible locations. All measurements were completed bilaterally. Post assessment, the participant wore the sock for 8 hours. Participants returned the next morning for 24-hour post algometric and volumetric measurements.

**EFFECTS OF MULTISENSORY INTERVENTIONS ON STUDENT WRITING SKILLS
IN AN INCLUSION CLASSROOM**
Heidi D. Cummings

Ellice P. Martin, Ed.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of multisensory literacy interventions on student writing and student attitude toward writing in a population of 37 first grade students. Multisensory interventions were implemented as a supplement to the traditional literacy instruction. The multisensory interventions included a visual-gestural support to alphabet and sound instruction, a picture-based sight word system, and songs with grammar and writing conventions as the subjects. Students were assessed prior to the intervention and at the conclusion of the intervention using the STEEP (System to Enhance Educational Performance), a student attitude survey on writing, and scored student writing. Findings from the assessments indicate that multisensory literacy interventions have a positive impact on student success in writing and attitudes toward writing.

EFFECT OF TEACHING INVERSE RELATIONSHIP OF ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION ON FACT FLUENCY OF SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS

Wendy Edelkind

Ellice P. Martin, Ed.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education

The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of teaching inverse relationships of addition and subtraction on the fact fluency of second-grade students. Participants included second-grade students from the 2009-2010 school year and archived data from 2008-2009 second-grade students when addition and subtraction were taught in isolation. Students were taught inverse relationship strategies for addition and subtraction and were assessed using a timed strategy. Overall fluency percentages were examined to determine whether there was a decrease in the gap between addition and subtraction fact fluency. A mathematics attitudes survey was conducted prior to and after the intervention. There was no significant difference in the addition and subtraction fluency from the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school year. However, there was a positive impact on students' attitudes towards mathematics from pre to post-intervention.

OUTCOMES OF TARGETED VOCABULARY INSTRUCTION IN FIRST GRADE

Katherine L. Lyons

Ellice P. Martin, Ed.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education

The purpose of the study was to examine the effects of targeted vocabulary instruction on vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension of first-grade students. Student attitudes toward reading and their level of engagement were also measured. The study was conducted at a suburban school in a large metro area in the southeastern United States. Participants who were below grade level as they began first grade, were homogeneously grouped based upon reading level. Targeted vocabulary techniques were used with the intervention group prior to, during, and at the conclusion of guided reading for 5 weeks. Vocabulary tests, Rigby benchmark reading assessments, student attitude and aptitude checklists, and student engagement checklists were used as data collection instruments. Results indicated that significant gains were recorded in reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and student attitudes toward reading. The intervention had no effect on the degree of student engagement.

HAPPILY EVER AFTER: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOVIE GENRE PREFERENCE AND ROMANTIC IDEALS

Jessica Gillard

David Wasieleski, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Psychology and Counseling

This study will examine hypotheses that high preference for romantic movie genres are related to lower relationship satisfaction, increased irrational relationship beliefs, higher levels of romantic idealism, and less relationship history. Approximately 150-200 undergraduate students are expected to participate by answering surveys measuring relationship satisfaction, preference for various movie genres, expectations of passionate love, relationship expectations, and beliefs about mass media and romance. It is predicted that participants are likely have a long history of media exposure, and thus potential exposure to romantic movies. Because of this exposure, romantic idealism is in turn predicted to be influenced by preference for romantic movie genres. This level of romantic idealism is then predicted to influence each participant's relationship history. For example, it is predicted that individuals with high preference for romantic movie genres will have higher levels of romantic idealism and less relationship history. Data collection is still in progress.

EXAMINING THE BIG FIVE PERSONALITY FACTORS AS PREDICTORS OF BURNOUT AMONG COUNSELORS

Stephany Norris

David Wasieleski, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Psychology and Counseling

Burnout is a complex syndrome primarily associated with one's personal relationship with work that has many negative consequences. Maslach (1982) defined three dimensions of burnout: emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and personal accomplishment. Prior research has established counselors as being particularly susceptible to burnout, but little research has studied the role of personality in burnout among counselors. Therefore, this study used the Five-Factor Model (FFM) to investigate personality factors as predictors of burnout among counselors. Findings were consistent with the hypothesis that of the five factors, high neuroticism scores would be positively correlated with high scores on burnout, and high extraversion scores would be negatively correlated with low levels of burnout among counselors. Overall, the importance of looking at ways in which personality factors might play a role in counselor susceptibility to burnout has been indicated, and this study has highlighted a potential area of future growth.

Library and Information Science

LIBRARIES BASED ON COMMUNITY ANALYSES

Christine Tift

Anita Ondrusek, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Department of Library and Information Science

This qualitative study involved a content analysis of 37 community analyses completed by Master of Library and Information Science students at Valdosta State University during the fall semesters of 2009 and 2010. As an assignment for a class titled "Programming for Children and Young Teens," these distance-learning students from 33 Georgia communities researched their towns/counties to pinpoint the needs of young people in that area and the services available to them. Then they reported on the youth services and programming offered by the local public library. Finally, the students made recommendations of ways to improve their programming and services to better address the needs of young people in the community. This study analyzed the recommendations the students made to look for common themes. The resulting categories in the findings suggest aspects of youth services that public libraries might most benefit from adjusting to better address the needs in their communities.

College of Nursing

BELIEFS AND BEHAVIORS ASSOCIATED WITH INFLUENZA VACCINATION AMONG NURSES IN SOUTH GEORGIA Christina Dent, M.S.N.

Nancy Redfern-Vance, Ph.D., Faculty Mentors
College of Nursing

Human seasonal influenza is one of the most deadly viruses of all time. Influenza's path through history is one riddled with mass destruction. Influenza is the sixth leading cause of death for individuals greater than 65 years of age and is the seventh overall leading cause of death in the United States. Nurses, who have increased contact with vulnerable populations, have the lowest vaccination rates of all healthcare workers. Discovering what motivates some nurses to accept and others to refuse influenza vaccinations may help health care organizations develop strategies to increase vaccination rates. The purpose of this study was to assess nurses' decision-making criteria for receiving the influenza vaccination using the Health Belief Model as a conceptual framework. The results demonstrated nurses who received the vaccine in 2008 and 2009 had higher perceptions of susceptibility and benefits with decreased perceptions of barriers. Future implications and research are discussed.

AN ONLINE EDUCATION TOOL FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS Andrea Paige Krispin

Brenda S. Dyal, DNP, Faculty Mentor
College of Nursing

Sexually transmitted infections continue to be prevalent in society despite advanced screening and treatment techniques. Older teens and young adults are especially vulnerable to these infections. Although treatment is effective, education is key to prevention and awareness. With the increased use among young people of technology and internet-based portals to access information, an online education tool for the prevention of Chlamydia and gonorrhea was developed. It was developed using Power Point software, and made available to the Student Health Clinic of a regional South Georgia University for access from their student health website.

**REMEDICATION IN MATHEMATICS, ENGLISH, AND READING
AS PREDICTORS FOR SUCCESS IN NURSING**

Janet Y. Myers, M.S.N.

**Maura C. Schlairet, Ed.D., Faculty Mentor
College of Nursing**

The purpose of this study was to determine if associate degree nursing (ADN) students, who upon entrance to college were required to take at least one remedial course in mathematics, English, or reading, were successful in first semester nursing courses and successful on first attempt of the NCLEX-RN. A convenience sample of ADN students was used. There was no relationship found between mathematics remediation and success in first semester nursing courses or success on the NCLEX-RN. Greater numbers of students who took remediation in English did not pass first semester nursing courses and were unsuccessful on the NCLEX-RN. However, this finding was not statistically significant. Reading remediation was identified as a predictor for failure in first semester nursing courses. A greater number of students who took remediation in reading were unsuccessful on the NCLEX-RN. However, this finding was not statistically significant. Additional findings, future implications, and research are discussed.

Division of Social Work

**HOMELESS IN HANDCUFFS: AN EXAMINATION OF POLICIES RELATED TO THE
CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS**

Ally Christianson

**Carol Rossiter, Ph.D., Faculty Mentor
Division of Social Work**

As a professional social worker I find myself attempting to reach an equilibrium between academia and the hands on action in the real world that we study. In 2006 my search led me to inner city Philadelphia, to Kensington Avenue, once the heroine capitol of our nation. There, I met my friend Steve, who had lived on the streets for over 16 years after having a stroke as a result of an overdose. It was through experiencing the streets with Steve, that homelessness went from a social justice issue defined by policies and laws to a personal issue that penetrated my heart. Therefore, this compendium will explore the nature and impact of homelessness and how America has criminalized this population. Throughout this work Steve's story will be inserted with the hope that future policies concerning the homeless will be imagined with our minds but rooted in our hearts.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

- **President Patrick Schloss**
- **Provost & Vice President Phil Gunter**
- **Ellice P. Martin and Teresa Williams**
- **Meg Giddings, Rebecca Waters, Betty Rowland, Jessica DeVane, Misty Lamb
Samantha Walls, Krystal Gore, Christie Couvillion, Kyle McCranie,
Namrata Villait and Katie Thompson**
- **The Graduate Executive Committee**
- **Graduate Program Coordinators**
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- **VSU Media Services**
- **VSU Printing Services**
- **VSU Creative Services**
- **The Spectator**

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VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Graduate School

LOCATION Regional Center for Continuing Education • 903 N. Patterson St. • 2nd Floor • Room #234

ADDRESS 1500 N. Patterson St. • Valdosta, GA 31698-0005

PHONE 229.333.5694 • **TOLL FREE** 800.618.1878 • **EXT 5** • **FAX** 229.245.3853

WEB www.valdosta.edu/gradschool • **E-MAIL** gradschool@valdosta.edu